

near the site, Mecca Elementary School and Saul Martinez Elementary School.

I became involved because local citizens, including teachers and students at the two schools, spoke out about the public health threat in Mecca that needed to be addressed immediately. I am so pleased that the Environmental Protection Agency stepped up its efforts to clean up the air pollution in and around the community of Mecca.

I give special thanks to the residents of Mecca, including the students at Mecca Elementary School, for speaking up and telling the truth about the troubling conditions nearby. It is an example to all Americans that we have a stake in our communities and that by fighting for what is right, we can make our country a better, safer and healthier nation.●

#### HANKINSON, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I am pleased to recognize a community in North Dakota that is celebrating its 125th anniversary. From July 1-4, the residents of Hankinson, ND, will gather to celebrate their community's founding.

The town of Hankinson was founded in 1886, and was named after COL Richard Henry Hankinson. At the time, Colonel Hankinson was promoting a townsite called Kelly a few miles to the south, but development shifted to the new site, which had just been reached by both the Great Northern Railroad and the Soo Line Railroad. Both of these railroads were trying to establish control in the area. The post office was established on December 6, 1886, with Colonel Hankinson as the postmaster, and the town was named in his honor.

Today, Hankinson is the home of Hankinson Renewable Energy, which is one of the largest ethanol facilities in the United States. The facility began operations in 2009 and produces approximately 110 million gallons of ethanol per year. Great facilities such as this one show the future of energy in the United States, and help ease our dependence on foreign oil.

The citizens of Hankinson are proud to mention the many reasons their community is so strong. The city offers genuine small town living with a public library, city park, the "Caboose" Museum, and the Jack L. Bopp Memorial Football Field. The Hankinson area is also known for excellent hunting and fishing.

In honor of the city's 125th anniversary, community leaders have organized a golf tournament, car and bike show, flea market, children's tractor pull, street dances, a parade, a fireworks display, and other celebratory events.

I ask that my colleagues in the U.S. Senate join me in congratulating Hankinson, ND and its residents on their first 125 years and in wishing them well in the future. By honoring Hankinson and all other historic small

towns of North Dakota, we keep the great pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Hankinson that have helped shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Hankinson has a proud past and a bright future.●

#### OAKES, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I am pleased today to recognize a community in North Dakota that will be celebrating its 125th anniversary. On June 10-12, the residents of Oakes will gather to celebrate their community's history and founding.

Oakes is a vibrant community located in Dickey County. This Northern Pacific Railroad, NPRR, townsite was founded in 1886. The town was named for Thomas Fletcher Oakes, who was the NPRR president from 1888-1893. Its first mayor, Thomas Frank Marshall, later became a U.S. Representative. Oakes is also the hometown of former NFL player, Phil Hansen.

Citizens of Oakes are proud of their community and what it has to offer. They boast that their town is the hub of southeastern North Dakota, with an excellent school system, a well-established clinic, and a new hospital facility. While a strong agricultural community, Oakes also has a booming business sector. Its citizens are honored to call Oakes their home and know that it is a great place to live and raise a family.

The residents of Oakes have already begun celebrating their town's anniversary. They gathered for a family night the first day in January to kick off their 125th year. They have also planned numerous activities for the weekend of June 10-12 to continue the celebration, including a walk/run, an all-school reunion, a parade along Main Avenue, and two evenings of live music and street dances.

I ask the U.S. Senate to join me in congratulating Oakes, ND, and its residents on their first 125 years and in wishing them well in the future. By honoring Oakes and all other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the great pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Oakes that have helped shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Oakes has a proud past and a bright future.●

#### RUGBY, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a community in North Dakota that will be celebrating its 125th anniversary. On July 1-3, the residents of Rugby will gather to celebrate their community's history and founding.

Rugby is a vibrant community in North Dakota that was founded in 1886.

This Great Northern Railroad station was platted as Rugby Junction, but since its founding has been simply called Rugby, for Rugby, Warwickshire, England.

Today, Rugby is home to almost 200 businesses in a variety of fields including craftsmanship, manufacturing, agriculture, retail, food services, and health care. Rugby is also part of the North Dakota Wind Power Project which consists of several wind turbines that produce clean, renewable energy. In addition, Rugby is recognized as the geographic center of North America.

In order to preserve the history of the city, Rugby has established museums including the Dale & Martha Hawk Museum and the Prairie Village Museum. Both of these museums are dedicated to the pioneering families and ancestors of the local community. Rugby is also home to a beautiful golf course, the Northern Lights Tower, the historic Pierce County Courthouse, and is near the scenic International Peace Gardens.

The citizens of Rugby are proud of all of their accomplishments over the past 125 years and have planned a celebration that will include, among other things, golf tournaments, a softball tournament, a 5K run/walk, local entertainment, a car show, a parade, and food and craft vendors.

I ask the U.S. Senate to join me in congratulating Rugby, ND, and its residents on the first 125 years and in wishing them well through the next century. By honoring Rugby and all the other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the great pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Rugby that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Rugby has a proud past and a bright future.●

#### TOWNER, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I am pleased to recognize a community in North Dakota that is celebrating its 125th anniversary. From July 1-4, the residents of Towner, ND, will gather to celebrate their community's founding.

Towner, the "Cattle Capital of North Dakota," was founded in 1886. The town was named after Colonel Oscar M. Towner, who was a Confederate veteran of the Civil War and played major roles in the development of Grand Forks and McHenry Counties. Towner established a post office on December 11, 1886.

Located in north central North Dakota, Towner is a vibrant community and the county seat of McHenry County. Today, Towner is home to many local businesses, such as Anderson Funeral Home, Farmers Union Elevator, Gunter Honey, Johnson Clinic, McIntee Law Firm, Towner Foods, Ranch House Restaurant, and Western State Bank.

In honor of the city's 125th anniversary, community leaders have organized a number of fun activities. There